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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Ports of Taku Bar/Tsingtao/Boarding Procedures/Port Facilities/Other Ships

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Taku Bar

1. Boarding Procedures: The ship anchored approximately one-half mile north of the Taku Bar Light Vessel. The crew was mustered on deck while a party of 20 men with sidearms searched the ship, accompanied by one of our crew. No special search equipment or techniques were noted. About five hours was required for the incoming search and about three hours for the search upon departure. A stowaway search was made, and radio silence was imposed. All cameras were sealed while in port. Six armed guards remained aboard until departure.
2. Port Facilities: Five 400-ton (approximately) barges and two tugs were used to lighter the cargo (linseed oil and ground nut kernels). The approximate dimensions of the barges were: Length: 150 ft.(overall); Beam: 27 ft.; Depth: 8 ft. Each barge was equipped with two steam winches powered by a small boiler on deck. Each was rigged with a center mast about 35 ft. high and four booms for working the two holds fore and aft. Four barges were alongside simultaneously, enabling ship holds numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 to be worked at all times from both sides. Approximately 40 stevedores were utilized on each barge while working cargo. The barges appeared to be fairly well-maintained.
3. Other Ships: No traffic was observed while we were in Taku Bar (22-25 February 1954) with the exception of one Chinese Communist freighter of about two thousand gross tons which entered during that period. Her cargo was not observed.

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Tsingtao

4. Boarding Procedures: The ship was boarded in the harbor enroute to her berth alongside the pier where the search was completed. The crew was mustered on deck while a party of approximately 20 men with sidearms searched the ship in the company of a crew member. No special search equipment or techniques were noted. About five hours were required for the arrival search and about three hours upon departure. A stowaway search was made and radio silence was imposed. All cameras were sealed while in port. Quantities of printed propaganda were delivered to the crew who quickly disposed of it.
5. Other Ships: The following ships were observed in Tsingtao during the period 27 February to 1 March 1954:
- 1 LST - Converted to merchant freighter (couldn't determine flag)
 - 2 LSTs- Outfitted for military use (couldn't determine flag)
 - 1 4,000 gross ton Soviet freighter - discharging crated machinery possibly tractors
 - 1 800 to 1,000 gross ton Chinese freighter - loading scrap iron
 - 1 Belgian freighter - name, size and cargo unknown (entered on 1 Mar 54)
- Numerous small military craft.

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